

District Attorney Conley's Internet Safety Initiative

One of District Attorney Daniel F. Conley's top priorities is the protection of children. District Attorney Conley has taken a progressive approach toward the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of crimes effecting children that use the Internet. Some of these initiatives include:

- ▶ June 2003 - District Attorney launches a hi-tech, interactive training program on Internet Safety in the schools of Suffolk County.
- ▶ Fall 2003 - The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office becomes a member of the Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children initiative.
- ▶ January 2004 - District Attorney Conley authorizes the creation of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Computer Crime Division (pictured below).
- ▶ June 2004 - District Attorney Conley launches the new Internet site for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, including a number of pages dedicated to Internet Safety. (See contact information for the address of the Internet site).
- ▶ October 2004 - District Attorney Conley creates the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Computer Crime Division as part of the Special Prosecutions Unit.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you believe your child has received illegal or offensive material on the Internet, you should report it to your local police department and your Internet Service Provider. Whenever possible, keep the computer on and keep everyone away from it until you have discussed the issue with an authority.

In the event of an emergency situation, dial 911.

If you would like more information on Internet safety, visit these Internet sites:

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
http://www.mass.gov/da/suffolk/internet_safety.html

NetSmartz
<http://www.netsmartz.org>



Computer Crime Division
617.619.4321

Special Prosecutions Unit
617.619.4090

Child Abuse Team
617.619.4300

Children's Advocacy Center
617.619.4276

TTY Line
617.619.4333

Internet Safety



*A Guide for Parents and
Students on Safe Internet
Navigation*

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DANIEL F. CONLEY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ONE BULFINCH PLACE
BOSTON, MA 02114
617.619.4000

Internet Safety Tips for Students

- ▶ Always follow the rules that your parents or teachers set for your Internet use.
- ▶ Use only your screen or log-in name when chatting or sending e-mail.
- ▶ Do not give out personal information such as your name, address, phone number or school name without your parents' permission.
- ▶ Do not create an online profile without your parents' permission and approval. (This information is public so it is important that the profile does not contain personal information).
- ▶ Keep your passwords private. Do not give them to anyone (not even your best friend) other than your parents.
- ▶ Do not share photos of yourself, your family, or your home without your parents' permission.
- ▶ Always delete unknown e-mail attachments without opening them. Attachments can contain viruses that might damage your computer.
- ▶ Do not respond to any messages that are mean or make you feel uncomfortable. Leave the computer the way it is and tell an adult!
- ▶ Never agree to get together with anyone you have met on the Internet. Speak to your parents if anyone you meet online ever asks you to meet with them in person.
- ▶ Remember that the Web is not completely private so be careful what you type.
- ▶ Do not forget that people online may not be who they seem. It is easy for a person to pretend to be someone else.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

It is important for you as a parent to establish rules for your child's Internet use. Consider the use of a contract to set the rules your child must adhere to while online. Also, make sure that online time doesn't take the place of social activities or your child's other important interests.

In 2004, researchers at the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire completed a study of online child sexual abuse. The results of the study are based upon actual online child sexual abuse case statistics reported to researchers by law enforcement agencies across the country. The study may help parents, educators, and law enforcement understand, and develop new methods to prevent, the online sexual victimization of children. The *American Psychological Association's* press release about this study can be found here:

http://www.apa.org/releases/online_sexabuse.html

Potential Risks to Your Child on the Internet

- ▶ Invitation to meet after an online discussion.
- ▶ Loss of privacy by disclosure of personal information or posting material without permission.
- ▶ Rude, obnoxious, malicious and other inappropriate behavior.
- ▶ Threatening, intimidating or harassing behavior.
- ▶ Viewing inappropriate materials.
- ▶ Mistaking online myths, altered documents and photographs, and misrepresentations for reliable facts and information.
- ▶ Engaging in rude, offensive, or illegal behavior that can lead to disciplinary or criminal penalty.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

The Warning Signs

- ▶ Your child is using an account that belongs to someone else.
- ▶ Your child is withdrawing from the family.
- ▶ Your child is spending a lot of time online, especially at night.
- ▶ Your child is turning off the monitor or minimizing the screen quickly when someone enters the room.
- ▶ You find pornography on your child's computer.
- ▶ Your child receives packages, mail, gifts, and/or phone calls from people you don't know.

Measures of Prevention

- ▶ Keep your computer in a common area of your home.
- ▶ Monitor all of your child's online activities.
- ▶ Look for a "family-friendly" online service provider.
- ▶ Have rules for your child's Internet use. Consider entering a contract to make the rules clear and enforceable.
- ▶ Learn about the different parental control tools, protective software, and controlled access options that are available.
- ▶ Teach your child to never reveal personal information to any person they meet online.